

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 21-27 have been amended for clarity and to better comport with U.S. practice.


Also by this amendment, Applicants add claims 29-32, which fall within elected Group II. Support for these new claims can be found in the application as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments, and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF JULY 24, 2002

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Amendments to the Claims

21. (Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment comprising:
a processing vessel in which an object to be processed is placed;
[a] means for supplying ClF_3 gas into the processing vessel;
[a] means for activating the ClF_3 gas supplied in the processing vessel; and
[a] means for supplying a reducing gas into the processing vessel.

22. (Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment comprising:
a processing vessel in which an object to be processed is placed;
[a] means for supplying ClF_3 gas into the processing vessel;
[a] means for promoting adhesion of ClF_3 gas to the object to be processed; and
[a] means for activating ClF_3 gas supplied in the processing vessel.

23. (Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 22,
further comprising a mount located in the processing vessel [to set] for setting the object
to be processed thereon.

24. (Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 23, wherein the means for promoting adhesion of the ClF_3 gas to the object to be processed is provided in the mount [to function to cool] for cooling the object to be processed on the mount.

25. (Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 24, wherein the means for activating the ClF_3 gas heats the object to be processed in a heating position [distant] at a distance from [the] an object setting position for setting the object on the mount.

26. (Amended) An apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 25, further comprising [a] means for elevating and lowering the object to be processed between the object setting position and the heating position.

27. (Amended) A cluster device comprising:

the apparatus for surface treatment according to claim 21, [wherein] further comprising:

a transport chamber [capable of] for maintaining a non-reactive atmosphere [inside] therein and [capable of] for transporting an object to be processed in the non-reactive atmosphere to and from the surface processing apparatus; and

[one or more] at least one processing [apparatuses capable of] apparatus for transporting the object to be processed to and from the transport chamber.